The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Are You REGISTERED?

Sen. McGrath Assails T-H Law; Says Democrats to Urge Repeal

Declares 80th Congress Destroyed Laborers' Bill of Rights

Washington.—Senator J. Howard McGrath of Rhode Island, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, predicted that the Democratic platform will call for "substantial" repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and enactment of a law more in keeping with the spirit of the Wagner Act."

The Senator's prediction was made on the "America United" program, a half-hour round-table discussion over the nationwide network of the National Broadcasting Company each Sunday from 1-1:30 p.m. EDT.

Participating with Senator McGrath were Phil Pearl, the AFL's Director of Publicity, and John Whittaker, representing the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. The Republican Party failed to provide a representative for the program, which discussed the question "Do Our Labor Laws Need To Be Changed?" Senator Joseph H. Ball, of Minnesota, who was scheduled to participate in the discussion, canceled his appearance at the last minute.

Charging that the 80th Congress almost entirely "destroyed" the laborer's bill of rights incorporated in labor legislation enacted over the last 14 years, Senator McGrath declared that the nation's labor laws do need a change. He said:

"Our labor laws need to be changed so that the American working man may once more consider himself a free and unscrambled unit in the economy of the United States."

Speaking for the AFL, Mr. Pearl declared the Taft-Hartley law should be repealed as soon as possible. He said that 10 months' experience under the act demonstrated clearly that the law is a failure. It has caused more strife between labor and management than before, he asserted.

On the other hand, Mr. Whittlesey, who fought a lone battle in support of existing labor laws, maintained that the Taft-Hartley law does not destroy labor's bill of rights, but the law "has operated extraordinarily well" in the year since its enactment, he asserted.

In a discussion of the law's ban on use of union funds for political activity, Senator McGrath objected to Mr. Whittlesey's comment that the same ban applies to corporations. He said:

"A voluntary association of men in a union is vastly different than a corporation which is supposed to accumulate profits for distribution to its shareholders. The writing in of this prohibition against political activity by unions is simply saying to the American working man: 'You cannot do collectively that which you are permitted to do individually.'

"The whole nature of the union is to preserve the economic rights of its members and not to make profits for them. And these economic rights can only be preserved in the political field. To continue to destroy the function of the union when you say, 'You cannot engage in political activities in a collective way.' The same reasons do not at all apply to corporations."

Both Senator McGrath and Mr. Pearl assailed the record of the 80th Congress which has consistently acted in favor of the business, special interest groups in the nation.

CINCINNATI PRINTERS WIN PAY BOOST WITHOUT PACT

Cincinnati.—The Cincinnati Publishers Association announced that an increase of $9 a week had been agreed upon with Local 3, Allied Printing Trades Graphical Union, AFL.

That will make the pay for pressmen working day shifts $90 weekly and for night workers $96.

The increase will be retroactive to Jan. 1.

It was announced that no contract was signed, but that the pay increase was put into effect by a gentlemen's agreement.

TWO HEALTH MEASURES APPROVED BY HOUSE

Washington.—The House passed the National Heart Act and the National Dental Research Act, both of which would set up new institutes in the Public Health Service.

Both require further action by the Senate, which has passed a heart research bill but in a form which it has not acted on the dental health bill.

Health service institutes set up include research in cancer, heart ailments, venereal diseases and tuberculosis.

The House bill would provide "such funds as may be necessary" each fiscal year for original research projects, grants, and grants in aid to the states.

FEDERAL JOBS INCREASE; APRIL SHOWS 16,737 GAIN

Washington.—Paid employment in the continental United States at the end of April totaled 1,811,065, a net increase of 16,737 during the month. A total of 257,196 employes were stationed outside the continental United States, an increase of 1,156 over the 256,039 reported at the end of March. Then, a grand total of 2,068,261 persons were employed by the federal government on April 30, 1948, a net increase of 17,893 during the month.

Republicans Laud T-H Law; Committee Sets Labor Plank

Philadelphia.—In a keynote address before the opening session of the Republican National Convention here, Governor Dwight H. Green of Illinois hailed the Taft-Hartley law as a "real start toward labor peace."

Declaring the law will stand as "proof of the courage of its sponsors and the willingness of the Republican Party to deal fearlessly with every vital problem," Gov. Green attacked the labor relations policies of the New Deal administration. He said:

"The New Deal administration has been a tragic failure in labor relations. Again and again it has blundered to the very edge of national disaster and then has had no solution except government control.

"The present Republican Congress has made a real start toward labor peace by enacting the Labor-Management Relations Act of 1947. The door is open—and the door must be open—to the full consideration of every criticism of this law, and every proposal for its change which may come from labor, from management or from the public.

"Whatever changes may be made in its provisions eventually, this act will stand as a proof of the courage of its sponsors and the willingness of the Republican Party to deal fearlessly with every vital problem."

Meanwhile, according to a New York Times report, a GOP convention subcommittee adopted a proposed labor-and-social-welfare plank pledging the Republican Party to keep the Taft-Hartley law as needed in the light of experience and changing conditions.

Under this proposal, labor's criticisms of the law would be recognized only to the extent that the law would be acknowledged not to be a free-labor bill, the Times declared.

The newspaper said the proposed plank also calls for the establishment of labor-union responsibility to that serving workers and promises a substantial broadening of social security benefits and housing legislation.

The housing clause emphasizes private enterprise and state rights. Federal aid to states for public housing would be available only where there was a need that private enterprise could not meet.

The social-security recommendation was advanced in these sections:

1. Extension of old-age and survivors' insurance to cover all employed persons and to insure against risks of permanent and total disability, with benefits adjusted to more realistic levels and to equalization of benefits for men and women.

2. Strengthening of grants of federal aid to aged, blind and dependent children that latitude must be given to states and localities in fixing the terms declared.

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2. Strengthening of grants of federal aid to aged, blind and dependent children that latitude must be given to states and localities in fixing the terms declared.

3. Flexibility in federal aid to enable states and localities to provide necessary assistance in accordance with preservation of the highest traditions of medical practice, free from governmental dictation.

Housing Starts Rise to 97,000 in May; Number of Building Permits Issued Dips

Washington.—Housebuilding continued its rapid pace in May, when builders started 97,000 new permanent nonfarm dwelling units, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor. This is an increase of 5 percent above the revised estimate of 92,000 for April and exceeds by 24,000 the number started in May, 1947, and by 5,000 the number started in March.

Permits issued for new nonfarm units in May were privately financed.

The rapid increase in housing activity in recent months resulted in a total of 354,000 new nonfarm units being put under construction during May, BLS reports. This is a gain of 78,000, or 28 percent, over the number under way in April.

A summary of early reports to the bureau indicates a decline in the number of permits issued in May. This may result in a decline in the number of units actually started in subsequent months. For May, however, the number of starts included a large volume of houses for which permits were issued in April.

Declines in local permits issued were reported for all sections of the country except the East, North Central and the Pacific States, where the larger cities reporting substantial increases in May included Boston, Baltimore, Md.; Arlington, Va.; New Orleans, La.; New York City, N. Y.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; and in Dallas, Houston and Fort Worth, Texas. Large gains occurred in Long Beach and Sacramento, Calif.; Denver, Colo.; Charlotte, N. C.; and Cincinnati, Ohio.

1947 Family 'Middle Income' Rose $320 to Total of $2,920

Washington.—The "middle income" of the nation's 42,000,000 families rose $320 in 1947 to a total of $2,920, according to an announcement of the Federal Reserve Board.

The board's report said half of all incomes were higher than the middle figure and half lower.

The middle income calculated for families headed by skilled and semi-skilled workers was $3,050, and for unskilled workers it was $1,800. Clerks and clerks and sales people had a middle income of $2,950.

Those who own their own business or manage somebody else's earn the highest average income. The middle income was $4,550 for families headed by "a managerial or self-employed person," and professional people, lawyers, dentists and so on—come next with a middle income of $4,000.

Farmers, reported separately by farmers on a cash basis was only $1,500, but the survey pointed out that farmers were different from others as to their "substantial" income, plus the fact that they produce.

The $320 rise in the middle income from 1946 to 1947, shown by a sample survey made by the board this year, was much steeper than the $200 increase between 1945 and 1946.

About 69 percent, or 28,980,000 families, had joint incomes of $2,000 or more last year. In the middle-class, fewer than 6,600,000 families had incomes at that level—but a dollar bought more then.

For 12 to 15 million, income was above $5,000 last year, with 8 of that group getting over $7,500 a year. Of each 100 families, about 13 had incomes of less than $1,000 and another 18 got between $1,000 and $2,000.

AFL LABOR LEADER URGES LOAN TO UN

New York.—Charles W. Hanson, president of the 40,000-member American New York District Council of Carpenters Non-Partisan Committee for Reciprocal Trade Legislation, called for a special session of Congress "to make good the commitments heretofore entered into" by the United States.

Urging that the House of Representatives "follow the lead of the Senate" and vote for construction of permanent United Nations headquarters in New York City, the labor leader said: "Organized labor is unable to understand the indifference of the House Republican leadership toward this piece of legislation, on which so much practical and international support depends. All that was required of the House was to concur in the Senate-approved loan, but even this simple action was not taken. If these conscienceless reactionary elements controlled the United Nations set up in America, they could have thought of no more effective way."

DODGE THAT BOOT—REGISTER NOW

Free Labor Groups Gain Roles In ILO

San Francisco.—The Inter-American Confederation of Workers and the International Confederation of Christian Trade Unions were accorded consultative relations with the United International Labor Organization under a decision of the ILO governing body at the ILO conference here.

The action followed identical applications on the same basis of the Russian-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions, a rival in the international labor field, and the objection of the American Federation of Labor.

David A. Morse, newly-elected director-general of the ILO, said recently acting U. S. Secretary of Labor, Edward Switzer, had informed him of the admittance of the two free labor groups.

Nongovernmental organizations who seek affiliation with the ILO usually submit copies of their constitutions, particulars of their membership, copies of the membership of national organizations affiliated with them, plus copies of the latest annual reports.

When the constitution had been approved, Mr. Morse said that these requirements usually would be fulfilled by the 2 federations which he sponsored for the consultative relationship.

In his losing fight to block affiliation of the WFTU with the ILO, Frank Fenton, the AFL's international representative and U. S. workers' delegate to the ILO conference, attacked the claim made by Vincente Lombardo Toledano of Mexico that the WFTU is the only representative workers' organization in the world.

Fenton charged that the AFL's basic charge against the WFTU, declaring it is completely dominated by Soviet Russia and does not in any way represent free labor, has been sustained. The AFL is continue to refuse to affiliate with the WFTU because unions are not satellites free the workers of their countries.

The Inter-American Confederation of Workers was formed in January for the purpose of rallying free, democratic labor in the Western Hemisphere against the Communist-influenced WFTU. Fenton has been named by AFL leaders as the AFL's chief representative in the Americas.

AFL Protests Move To Name CIO Man

Washington.—In a letter to Secretary of State George C. Marshall, AFL President William Green protested a vigorous protest against the intention of the Truman administration to name a CIO representative to attend the Czechoslovak General Assembly of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Mr. Green's letter said in part:

"This is completely unacceptable to the American Federation of Labor and highly objectionable to labor on the fact that the position of the CIO representative is highly political and to be affected by their continued affiliation with the World Federation of Trade Unions, which as you know is dominated by the Communist leaders of the Soviet Union and its satellite nations. The choice of delegates to UNESCO and our participation in the first General Conference of UNESCO in 1946, we have found that there is a persistent attempt on the part of those representing the Russian point of view to dominate the proceedings for its own purposes.

"So far as we know that we have been successful in warding off these influences but it is technically present and we feel that it is only appropriate that a labor organization which has given abundant evidence that it is aware of the dangers should be represented on the delegation at the Third General Conference as it was represented at the First and Second General Conferences."

ILGWU RADIO STATION NAMED FOR ROOSEVELT

New York.—The International Garment Workers Union announced it will name its FM broadcasting station here WFDR.

David Dubinsky, president of the ILGWU, said he was originally permitted to use the name from the family of the late President F. D. Roosevelt.

The station, 1 of 6 being set up by the garment workers in various parts of the country, will be located atop a midtown skyscraper, Frederick F. Umbey, executive secretary of the union, said he expected the lease to be signed next week. The other stations are to be located in Los Angeles, Boston, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Chattanooga, Tenn.

WE HAVE THE VOTES

LET'S USE THEM

U. S. MEAT SUPPLIES GOING STILL LOWER

Washington.—America's meat supply, already short, promises to be still shorter next year, the Department of Agriculture reported.

Basis for the pessimism is the fact that the spring pig crop is the smallest since 1941.

With cattle numbering the lowest in 8 years and sheep and lambs fewer than in any year since 1869, department officials had hoped for a larger pig crop.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics said Americans this year will get only 143 pounds of meat per person compared with 156 pounds a year ago. On the basis of the new report, the consumption figure may go below 140 pounds next year.

Unions Free to Spend Money On Their Political Publications

Supreme Court Ruling Permits Use of Funds Under T-H Law

Washington.—The Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the Taft-Hartley law does not prohibit labor newspapers financed with union funds from using their space to report and comment on political matters.

However, the decision added that if the law did actually prohibit such partisanship, its constitutionality would be hotly questionable.

However, the court said it did not have to go into the constitutionality question in the case before it. It simply held that the law does not prohibit the acts alleged as a violation.

The net effect of the court's ruling is to leave up in the air the conclusive legal question of the law's section which bans the using of union funds for political purposes. Since the Supreme Court has adjourned until October, there will be no opportunity for further final clarification of the issue except in the heat of the coming political campaigns and election are over.

Along with its political expenditures ruling, the court promptly upheld 7 to 2 the Taft-Hartley law's requirement that union officers file financial statements with the Secretary of Labor.

It side-stepped, however,—in ruling on the constitutional requirement that principal union officers file affidavits saying they have no Communist affiliations, if they are to have use of the National Labor Relations Board.

A lower court had upheld the non-Communist affidavit requirement, but as the financial statement requirement, it held that the validity of the case could be decided strictly on the basis of the financial statement and there was no need to go into the non-Communist affidavit matter.

Act Also in the political expenditure case was the action of the CIO News in publishing a report favorable to an indorsement of Edward Garmatz by Baltimore Democratic candidates for Congress. A thousand extra copies of the issue were sent to Baltimore for distribution. Garmats was elected.

Justice Reed, in the main opinion, said it would take "explicit words" in a law to convince the court that Congress intended to bar a trade journal, a house organ or a newspaper published by a corporation, from expressing views on candidates for political office in the regular course of its publication."

He applied the same yarstick to union publications.

The decision also dealt with the constitutional phase of the political expenditures case centering chiefly among the 4 Supreme Court "libertarians"—Justices Hugo L. Black, William O. Douglas and Frank Murphy.

Agreeing as to the dismissal of the Taft-Hartley law's indictments, through Justice Rutledge, accused the Supreme Court of "abdicating" its function in the guise of applying the judicially sanctioned doctrine of constitutionality unnecessarily" and of "rewriting" the amendment to the Taft-Hartley law.

Justice Rutledge further, in his concurrence, emphasized the larger court ruling that the Federal Trade Commission had conceded that the Taft-Hartley statute abridged no free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment. Justice Frankfurter concurred that this sufficient reason to conclude that the law was not a signal for the world-wide realignment of the forces of free labor devoted to social justice, democracy reconstruction, and lasting peace."

Woll Assails Soviet-Dominated WFTU; Says CIO Support for Group Aids 'Reds'

New York.—Matthew Woll, AFL Executive Council member, declared that withdrawal of the CIO from the World Federation of Trade Unions would render a great service not only to the early attainment of the aims of American labor movement but to the cause of democracy and peace everywhere."

Mr. Woll's statement was contained in a letter to Philip Murray, CIO president, in reply to a letter from Murray defending the CIO's affiliation with the WFTU.

In a scathing attack upon the WFTU, which he characterized as "world-wide wreckers of the Marshall Plan" completely dominated by the Kremlin's Communist brigades, Mr. Woll defended the AFL's position in steadfastly refusing to affiliate with the international labor body. He said:

"In democratic countries, the trade unions are free, and are in a position to influence the governments and affect foreign and domestic policies. But in totalitarian countries like Russia, Czechoslovakia, Spain and Rumania, the "trade unions" are not bona fide, they are not free, they are unable to exercise any influence whatsoever on the governments which dominate them. In Communist, Nazi, Fascist, and Falangist countries, the people and the trade unions are run by and serve the state. In totalitarian countries the governments can remove the people; in democratic countries, the people can remove the governments.

"Here is the unbridgeable difference between democracy and totalitarian despotism. It is precisely on this account that there can be no common ground of effective cooperation between the free trade unions of the democracies and the government-owned "trade unions" of the totalitarian countries.

"In a setting like unto the AFL's being outside the WFTU that the Executive Council of Rumania was hampered by alliances and pacts with foreign agencies, governments and despots, has been heard clearly at a time when it is vitally necessary in order to play a positive and constructive part in the American Federation of Labor has thus rendered a real service to the cause of democracy and trade unionism the world over.

"It is only by the same token, if the CIO were to withdraw from the WFTU, it would hasten the collapse of this international Communist instrument and serve as a signal for the world-wide realignment of the forces of free labor devoted to social justice, democracy reconstruction, and lasting peace."

Changed Record-Keeping Regulations Under Wage-Hour Law In Effect July 8

Washington.—Effective July 8, Fair Labor Standards Act records exemptions now are required to keep for 4 years will need be preserved for only 3 years, according to amended regulations issued by Solicitor of Labor Charles P. Donnelly, Jr., Contract Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor.

The changes will not affect the divisions' record-keeping requirements with respect to basic records, such as time cards and similar working records, which must be kept for only 2 years. In adopting the amendments, Donnelly pointed out that they will reflect the divisions' new operating policy with respect to the provisions of the Portal-to-Portal Act which establishes a 2-year federal statute of limitations applicable to employes' actions under the Wage and Hour Law and at the same time is in keeping with the 2-year federal statute limiting to 2 years the time for commencing criminal actions.

In addition, the amendments will change the regulations substantially in accord with the statutory amendment to the Wage and Hour Law which changed from 2,000 to 2,080 the number of hours of employment which may be set under the law's provision intended to encourage agreements between employers and employes for employment on an annual basis. Another minor change simplifies one of the divisions' record-keeping regulations pertaining to home workers.

UNION MEMBERSHIP PUT AT 14,280,000

New York.—Membership in American labor unions rose to 14,280,000 during 1947, according to a preliminary report prepared by Prof. Leo Wolman of Columbia for the National Bureau of Economic Research.

The figure, Professor Wolman estimated, included fraudulent members of American unions.

Dr. Wolman's new data, which are tentative and will be published later in final form, cover the years 1935 to 1947.

An idea of the magnitude of the change in size of the American labor movement can be gained from the figures, he asserted. They follow:

Year	Union Membership
1935	3,648,100
1936	4,084,100
1937	6,204,600
1938	7,497,000
1939	7,755,100
1940	8,027,700
1941	8,587,200
1942	9,545,400
1943	11,505,700
1944	12,067,000
1945	12,704,431
1946	12,957,000
1947	14,280,400

UNION HEAD HITS REFUSAL TO KILL UNION SHOP POLLS

New York.—Union predictions that the Taft-Hartley law would provoke industrial strife are now confirmed by newspapers which have opposed the first to clamor for restraints on organized labor, Charles P. Howard, president of the New York Carpenters Non-Partisan Committee for Reciprocal Trade Legislation, declared here, said.

In answer to editorial comment in The New York Times the head of the carpenters' group cited several stressed mounting tension and a sharp increase in the number of strikes this year-old law. Condemning the Joint Congressional Committee on Labor to recommend the Free-Landis amendment to repeal union-shop election requirements, he stated that "organized labor has said, never had, hope for redress of these wrongs by the Congress."

NEW MINIMUM WAGE ORDERS FOR PUERTO RICAN INDUSTRY

Washington.—Adoption of new minimum wage orders for top industries in Puerto Rico subject to the Fair Labor Standards Act was announced by Wm. E. McComb, administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

Both effective July 19, the new wage orders will establish a rate of 40 cents an hour for the Sugar Manufacturing Industry, and a 37½-cents-an-hour rate for the Pearl Button Industry. Both industries now operate under wage orders which provide for minimum wages of 32 cents an hour.

Approximately 30,000 employes are engaged in the Sugar Manufacturing Industry, while the Pearl Button Industry employs some 600 persons.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

Are You REGISTERED?

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 1948 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

Dewey Wins Republican Nomination; Brief Labor Plank In GOP Platform

Philadelphia.—Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York was nominated unanimously by the Republican Party for President of the United States.

Mr. Dewey was chosen on the third ballot at the GOP national convention here after Senator Robert A. Taft, the closest contender for the nomination, and other candidates withdrew from the race and threw their support behind the New York governor.

With 548 votes needed to clinch the nomination, Dewey piled up early on the first ballot and increased his total to 515 on the second ballot.

In his speech of acceptance, Gov. Dewey did not refer to the subject of labor-management relations, nor has he ever issued a public statement giving his views on the Taft-Hartley law. Examination of his record as governor shows that Mr. Dewey has consistently refused to support anti-labor legislation, similar to the Taft-Hartley law's provisions in New York state.

Referring to the platform adopted by the GOP convention, Mr. Dewey said:

"I can unanimously adopted it. I proudly support it. It will be the heart of the message I will take to the country."

The GOP platform contains the following brief paragraph referring to organized labor:

"Collective bargaining is an obligation which we will aid by fully implementing it to workers and employers; and the fundamental right to strike is subordinate only to paramount considerations of public health and safety. Government's chief function in this field is to promote good will, encourage cooperation and, where recent is had to intervention, to be impartial, preventing violence and repressing violations of all law by all parties involved. We pledge ourselves to study the entire labor-management legislation in the light of experience and changing conditions."

Retail Prices at New Peaks; Food Index 211% Over '39; Consumers in New Squeeze

Washington.—American workers, striving to keep their heads above the rising tide of high prices, took a licking again last month when retail prices hit new high levels, according to reports released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The bureau's retail food price index also set a record by advancing to 210.3 percent of the 1935-39 average, or 0.6 percent above the January peak, which was reached prior to the break in commodity market prices.

The consumers' price index, covering food, apparel, rent, fuel, electricity, ice, house furnishings and several miscellaneous necessities of moderate-income groups, rose 2.7 percent between mid-April and mid-May.

The new high was 170.5 percent of the 1935-39 average, 9.3 percent higher than a year ago, 27.9 percent above June, 1946, and 72.9 percent over August, 1939.

The new food price index for the country was 12.4 percent above a year ago, 44.8 percent over June, 1946, and 123.6 percent higher than August, 1939.

The average increase from mid-April to mid-May of 5.4 percent for meats was mainly responsible for a 1.4 percent rise in the food index. Record peak prices prevailed for beef, veal, pork, lamb, mutton, fresh fish and all fats and oils rose contra-seasonally 2.7 percent.

Fresh fruits and vegetables also showed a contra-seasonal rise of 1.8 percent, mainly as the result of widespread increases in coal prices.

Eggs declined 3.8 percent, however, largely because of heavy marketings and dairy products and butter more than offsetting increased prices for cheese.

It canned fish declined.

The index of apparel prices continued to rise, advancing 0.6 percent in the mid-April to mid-May period. Higher prices were reported for women's cotton street dresses, men's wool suits and some articles of children's clothing. Prices were lower on the average for men's work cloth shirts, pajamas and percale yardgoods.

A 0.6 percent rise in household furnishing prices lowered that index for the second consecutive month. Decreases in prices of radio-phonographs, vacuum cleaners and electric refrigerators more than offset scattered increases reported for furniture.

Electricity and ice rose 0.8 percent, mainly as the result of widespread increases in coal prices.

With landlords and tenants again permitted to agree to rent increases up to 15 percent under the Housing and Rent Act of 1948, residential rents rose 0.3 percent.

CIT Leaders Meet; Hail CTAL Eclipse; Meany In Warning

San Francisco.—The Executive Committee of the Inter-American Confederation of Workers adopted a program of constructive activities to be pursued by the organization in the immediate future.

Concluding its first session since formation of the hemispheric labor body last January in Lima, Peru, the committee hailed its progress to date which has contributed in no small measure to the collapse of the Communist-controlled Confederation of Latin American Workers headed by Vicente Lombardo Toledano of Mexico.

Composing the CTAL collapse, George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor and vice-president of the CIT, warned against resorting to deals taken with communist politics with the interests of labor. He said:

"We must attend above all to the basic interests of the workers in their daily needs, all the matters which will have a direct influence in raising their standard of living."

Delegates from Argentina, Brazil and Chile reported on the activities of the organization in their respective areas. They told of the gains made by free labor unions and the setbacks suffered by unions which have contributed to the collapse of the Communist-led confederation from the labor movement in their countries.

Among the decisions made by the committee was one calling for continued cooperation with the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the International Metal Workers Federation (IMF) and close cooperation with the International Labor Organization, which had accorded the CIT consultative relationship, and with regional ILO meetings between representatives of the AFL, Pan-American Labor Confederation and representatives of labor groups in Latin America to discuss the welfare of discussing migrant farm labor problems.

In other action, the committee resolved to "study the problem of collective labor representation for labor, along with management and government, at the forthcoming Economic Inter-American Conference to be held early in 1948 at Buenos Aires.

Havana, Cuba, was selected as the site of the first convention of the CIT to be held next March or April.

GROSS WEEKLY EARNINGS BELOW RECORD FOR '47

Washington.—Average gross weekly earnings for the nation's factory production workers in the nation declined $51.39 in May, a figure somewhat below the record average reached in 1947, according to the latest estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Reduced weekly hours, resulting from gradual cutbacks in operations in nondurable goods industries and lower earnings in durable goods industries and segments affected by material shortages and work stoppages, have continued to offset the slight advance in average hourly earnings during the last December gross hourly earnings of factory production workers rose 4.3 cents, or 1.6 percent, to almost $1.30 in May, while gross weekly earnings announced major auto, electrical, and steel package settlements.

TRADE UNION GROWTH INCREASES IN HAWAII

Washington.—In the years 1945-47, Hawaii experienced "one of the largest organized to one of the most highly organized areas of the United States," according to an article in the May issue of the Monthly Labor Review, publication of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In 1946 alone, 105 NLRB elections were held and 40 union certifications were made in the Islands, in addition to the numerous elections conducted under the Territorial Employment Relations Act. The rapid organization of AFL membership is in the main due to the strong labor tradition in the teamsters, according to the article.

SIMONSON, LEFKOWITZ, REELECTED BY TEACHERS

New York—Mrs. Rebecca C. Simonson and Dr. Abraham Lefkowitz have been reelected to their posts as president and legislative representative, respectively, of the AFL's New York Teachers Guild, according annual election results made public here.

Mrs. Simonson, who enters her 8th year as the organization's president, is a teacher at Junior High School No. 1. Lefkowitz, principal of Samuel J. Tilden High School, has been the guild's legislative representative since he helped found the organization 22 years ago.

Ballots Defend Your Freedom

BE SURE TO VOTE THIS YEAR AND EVERY YEAR

Woll Urges Greater Coverage, Benefits Under Workmen's Compensation Laws

New York.—Matthew Woll, member of the AFL Executive Council, urged all AFL members and affiliated unions to work diligently for the extension of coverage under the state workmen's compensation laws, for compulsory application of the laws, and for increases in benefits provided by the statutes.

Mr. Woll's plea was contained in the last of a series of articles written by the prominent AFL leader for the Workers Education Bureau of America on the general topic of "Labor and the Law."

While every state now has a workmen's compensation law, there are wide discrepancies in the extent of coverage and amount of benefits provided. Discussing needed improvements, Mr. Woll said:

"In the first place, there are more states in which compensation insurance laws are elective rather than compulsory. A compulsory law is one under which employers covered are required to accept the act and obtain necessary insurance. Under an elective act the employer has the right to reject the provisions of it, although in rejecting it an employer loses the protection of workmen's law defenses in suits brought by injured workers in addition to other loss such an employer is financially responsible for the injuries which his workers will actually be paid benefits. It is clear therefore that a compulsory law is more completely adequate than an elective one.

"Further, the laws in all states should be applicable to all employments, regardless of their type and the number of persons employed. Workers in agricultural, domestic, workers, and employes of charitable institutions are excluded under nine state laws, while certain states also exclude other occupations or industries for no apparent reason.

"Only a part of employees of less than a stated number of workers are covered. This limits the coverage in 29 states. In South Carolina, for example, all those working for less than 15 employes is exempt from coverage under the state law. In 19 states such numerical exemptions are not in effect, although coverage in certain of these states is limited to listed industries which may or may not be termed "hazardous" or "extra-hazardous" employments.

"It is now generally recognized that those who are ill or injured should be covered under compensation laws. Some state laws list only specific diseases in a schedule; others provide coverage for all occupational diseases. The American Federation of Labor has affiliated state federations in the whole-heartedly behind the campaign to replace the schedule provisions by only specific diseases with full coverage in all state laws.

"Finally, with present high living costs, it is also necessary to provide upward both minimum and maximum benefits which have been in many cases inadequate."

McComb Issues Clarification on Ruling Of Court in Overtime-on-Overtime Case

Washington.—How the recent Supreme Court decision in the Bay Ridges shoremen's back pay suits will affect administration of the Fair Labor Standards Act is pointed out in an analysis of the decision by Wm. R. McComb, administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor.

The administrator has withdrawn the interpretations which permitted employers to contract toward statutory overtime pay premium payments made for work because it was done at hazardous and holidays or "outside normal" or regular "living hours," as distinguished from extra payments made because the employe had worked longer than the bona fide daily or weekly standard. Such payments may be because of undesirable days or hours now are part of the regular rate of pay. In order to give employers opportunity to change their practices where necessary, enforcement on the new basis will not begin until July 1, 1948, McComb said.

The decision does not change the status of extra payments made for time worked in excess of a bona fide daily or weekly standard, but holds that such extra payments may be credited toward the overtime pay required by the Act. A typical situation affected by the Supreme Court decision is an agreement calling for bona fide guarantee of 40 hours and one day for work after 7 hours a day or 35 hours a week.

Again expressing the belief that the Supreme Court decision will affect industries other than stevedoring industry, McComb added that even in the stevedoring industry the decision "will not be as great as some individuals had feared. It was perfectly clear that many longshoremen have not worked more than 40 hours a week for a single employer and the 2-year statute of limitation, in addition to the good faith defenses under the Portal Act, as factors, will limit liabilities in the stevedoring industry.

As for industries other than stevedoring, McComb said that those employers who in the past have had time and one-half for work because it was performed on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays or at hours actually "outside normal or regular working hours," following and relying in good faith on the interpretations of the Wage and Hour Division, are protected, in most cases, by the Portal Act.

Business Profits In '48 to Hit Peak According to Federal Reserve Board

Washington.—Business profits for 1948 are likely to be larger than in 1947, according to the Federal Reserve Board.

As a result, the board's monthly bulletin says, dividends paid to stockholders probably will be higher.

Meanwhile, consumers continue to take it on the chin in the face of soaring prices for food and other commodities. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the consumers' price index for May hit a new record high 9.3 percent above a year ago and 27.9 percent over June, 1946, and 72.9 percent over the August, 1939, level.

The Federal Reserve Board estimate is backed up by findings of a New York Times survey of industry, recently which showed that net income of 297 industrial manufacturers for the first quarter of 1948 was 26 percent above the comparable period in 1947, which was a banner year for corporation profits.

The board also looks for undistributed profits and increases in business borrowings through new securities and bank loans to finance advanced by Senator Styles Bridges which prevailed in the confirmation of the last work stoppage in the industry.

The Senator emphasized that there is nothing in the 1947 wage agreement which in any way violates the law or the Bridges plan violated the Taft-Hartley law.

Nor did the court see any conflict between the labor-management contract and the requirement of the Bridges plan that welfare funds to be paid to union members not employed by the employers, he emphasized that the 1947 agreement creating the welfare fund was also between employers and the union, not between operators and individual employes, "a very different proposition."

volume of profits since profit margins are generally been maintained."

The board compiled data from the published reports of 200 of the largest manufacturing corporations in the country. They showed, it says:

"The average (median) profit after taxes (and other costs) was 7.8 cents per dollar of sales in 1947 as compared with 6.7 cents in 1946 and 7.2 cents in 1939."

"Earnings of all corporations as a group indicate an even more favorable comparison of current with prewar profit margins. This is due primarily to the exceptionally small number of unprofitable companies in business today as contrasted to prior years."

The companies reported net income of $895,132,357 in the 297 industrial firms on the basis of their financial reports, while this compared favorably with the $709,651,780 earned in the first 3 months of 1947.

The newspaper account cited the current strong demand and high prices as the principal factors for the good earnings reported. Prime example of this was seen in the petroleum industry, which accounted for panies reported record profits for the first 3 months of 1948.

The Times survey showed that the cents totaled $241,326,500, exceeding the March, 1947, quarter by 100 per-

Benefits Totaling $3,806,000 Paid To Pennsylvania Hard Coal Miners

New York.—Pennsylvania hard coal miners and operators have received $3,806,000 in benefits from the health and welfare fund set up by the Bridges plan, it was revealed in the Mine Workers town years ago.

This was announced in the first public accounting of the fund, which covers 90,000 miners, and which has been administered without any of the spectacular disputes that have characterized operation of the welfare fund in the soft coal industry.

The report was presented by Thomas Kennedy, vice-president of the union, in contract negotiations between the miners and the anthracite operators. He said the fund had a current surplus of $3,900,000. It has been financed by a royalty of 10 cents per ton on all coal produced, which has been augmented through interest on the fund's investment in government bonds.

Payments from the fund, as reported by Mr. Kennedy, included $2,170,000 in hospital and medical bills, $816,000 in medical and disability payments and $100,000 for death benefits treatment and research. Mr. Kennedy said the accumulation of a large surplus cite industry was greater than in any other industry in the bituminous country.

"The deaths are greater from all causes," he declared.

FHA Insured MORTGAGES TOTAL OVER $12½ BILLION

Washington.—Summing up 14 years of service in the home mortgage field, the Federal Housing Administration, which was established on June 27, 1934, Commissioner Franklin D. Richardson announced that the FHA has insured over $12½ billion of mortgages on one- to four-family homes.

During this period of time the administration has built up reserves than $176 million to cover the worst loan insurance funds and paid out more than $100,000,000 to lenders on claims arising out of defaults on loans insured by FHA, although a public-service enforcement agency, is self-supporting. Last year its income exceeded $30 million after payment of all operating expenses.

The last 18 months has been the largest volume period in the history of the administration with over $2,700 billion insurance written. Of this amount more than $850 million involved small home mortgages insured under Title II of the National Housing Act, which is a long-range insurance program.

Federal Employes Finally Win Raise; Postal Workers Get $450, Others $330

Washington.—After a long battle, the results of which were not known until nearly the last legislative minute, the 80th Congress voted a pay raise for the first in 2 years.

The pay raise granted by Congress fell far short of the $1,000 boost sought by AFL unions of federal employes and by President Truman's own Advisory Committee on Federal Pay. Moreover, many thousands of federal workers are not included in those eligible for the salary increases. Over 17,000

workers in the District of Columbia government are among them.

The pay raise, effective at the last hours of the session of Congress were higher salaries for postmasters and other federal officials, the provision known as the Classification Act, and many other valuable features in the bill, including one bill which was the most beneficial of the group of measures to which the pay raise legislation.

This is known as the Classification Act was promised by House and Senate leaders when the 81st Congress convenes. If and when such revision takes place, it is possible that additional small raises will be forthcoming for federal employes.

It is considered possible that many federal workers, whose pay was not determined directly by Congress, may receive increases through action of increase granted to postal and other federal workers. Almost one thousand employed in navy yards, arsenals, and other military establishments, whose pay is set by wage boards.

PARALYZED VETERANS' AID BILL SIGNED BY TRUMAN

Washington. — The President has signed into law H. R. 4244, which provides certain paralyzed veterans with federal grants up to $10,000 for the purpose of purchasing or remodeling specially adapted housing with a motor-driven chair living, Veterans Administration announced.

Eligible under the law are veterans of war or peace who served in the armed forces since April 21, 1898, who have a permanent-total service-connected disability due to injury or disease or injury, resulting in paralysis of both lower extremities or of the spine.

The purpose of the law is to provide these disabled veterans, who must spend a large part of their time in wheel chairs, with homes especially adapted to their needs.

MORE AID GIVEN DISABLED GIs

Washington.—A bill allowing veterans to collect disability benefits for chronic and tropical diseases which appear after their leave military service was signed by President Truman. The new law declares that it will be presumed that the veteran acquire the disease during his service, although it may have lain dormant since his discharge.

STRIKE HITS LEVELS OFF; QUITS RISE IN APRIL

Washington.—Manufacturing industries in April continued to hire workers at the rate of 40 per cent of employes on the pay roll, the lowest April rate for any year since the depression period, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

Only six of the 19 major industry groups reported some increase in hires during the month, but most of the remaining groups indicating small declines chiefly as a result of material shortages and seasonal reductions in activity, according to the BLS.

Quits increased slightly to 30 per 1,000 employes as some workers returned to the farm for the spring planting and others quit to look after their jobs in seasonally slack industries. Layoffs remained at 10 per 1,000 employes in April, reflecting a small decline in the durable goods industries and a slight increase in the soft-goods division. During the first four months of this year layoffs have been consistently higher than in the same period of 1947, largely as a result of unfavorable weather conditions and persistent material shortages. Indicating the generally continuing stability of the factory workforce, the total separation rate, at 47 per 1,000, was well below any comparable month in the war and postwar years.

STOCK EXCHANGE UNION WINS WEEKLY PAY HIKE

New York.—About 1,000 employes of the New York Stock Exchange will receive pay increases of from $3 to $5 a week, it was announced here, reached between the exchange and the Office Employes International Union.

Other benefits granted the employes in the agreement include payment of an additional $81,000 annually to their retirement plan, retroactive annuities which will cost the exchange $18,000 over the next 10 years, and continuance of group insurance, hospitalization, sick leave and other benefits.

6,000 ELECTRICAL WORKERS GAIN 8% PAY INCREASE

New York.—Over 6,000 members of the AFL's International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers received an 8 percent wage increase under a new agreement reached by the union with the General Cable Corporation.

The new pact, which set the minimum increase at 9 cents per hour, will affect workers in company plants in Perth Amboy and Bayonne, N. J., and in St. Louis.

2,061,300 ON U. S. PAYROLL

Washington.—A total of 1,820,200 civilian employes were on the federal payroll in continental United States June 1, the Civil Service Commission reported. This was an increase of approximately 15,100 employes in one month. Including those outside the United States, the government had 2,061,300 employes the first of this month, the commission said.

CHICAGO JOB PRINTERS FINALLY WIN PAY BOOST

Chicago.—AFL printers employed in the commercial job shops here won a contract increase of $7 a week, ending months of negotiations with the Franklin Association, an employer organization.

The 16 of the commercial Typographical Union concluded the new agreement which also provides for the pay raise, provided for retroactive pay of 60 cents a day for each day worked by a printer since January 1. The new pact runs for 1 year.

The contract is subject to ratification by the membership of the union employed in the commercial shops.

AFL POTTERS UNION WINS 10-CENT HOURLY PAY HIKE

Metuchen, N. J.—The Richmond Radiator Company announced it had reached an agreement with the International Brotherhood of Operative Potters, Local 174 (AFL), under which a 10-cent-an-hour wage increase would be granted 470 employes. The agreement was made under a wage reopening clause of the present contract, which expires June 16, 1949.